

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A flanged connection for fixing a gas-filled spring in a machine tool, the flanged connection comprising an upper flange half and a lower flange half, ~~which can be joined together and which each have a through-opening intended to receive the gas-filled spring, a~~ fixing element, and a locking ring intended, said upper flange half and said lower flange half each include a through-opening designed to receive at least a portion of the gas-filled spring, said upper flange half and said lower flange half designed to be secured together, said locking ring designed to secure the gas-filled spring by at least partial insertion into a groove of complementary design around the gas-filled spring and intended for fixing while being fixed in positioned between the flange halves said upper flange half and said lower flange half, ~~wherein the locking ring is supplemented by a~~ said fixing element designed to apply a clamping force on said locking ring that is positioned at least partially around the gas-filled spring when joining the flange halves said upper flange half and said lower flange half are designed to be secured together, said locking ring and said fixing element are at least two separate components, said fixing element designed to apply a contact force against said locking ring when said upper flange half and said lower flange half are designed to be secured together.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The flanged connection according to claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~the~~ said flange halves on its inside has a section inclined in relation to the central axis of the

flanged connection ~~and~~ , said inclined section designed to bring a correspondingly inclined section on the outside of ~~the~~ said fixing element into engagement in order to produce the clamping force.

6. (Currently Amended) The flanged connection according to claim 5, wherein ~~the~~ said fixing element has a groove running along its outside and designed to bring a projecting part arranged on the inside of one of ~~the~~ said flange halves having the inclined section into engagement.

7. (Currently Amended) The flanged connection according to claim 2 1, wherein ~~the~~ said fixing element has a recess along its inside designed to receive ~~the~~ at least a portion of said locking ring.

8. (Currently Amended) The flanged connection according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said flanged connection is fitted to the machine tool by ~~means of fasteners and that the fasteners are at least one fastener, said at least one fastener~~ designed to generate the clamping force between ~~the~~ said fixing element and the gas-filled spring and ~~where appropriate~~ to generate a contact force between ~~the~~ said fixing element and ~~the~~ said locking ring.

9. (Previously Presented) The flanged connection according to claim 1, wherein the clamping force is designed to prevent rotation of the gas-filled spring.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of fixing a gas-filled spring in a machine tool, by which method an upper flange half and a lower flange half of a flange connection which can be

joined together are fitted at least partially around the gas-filled spring and a locking ring arranged between the flange halves is at least partially fitted around the gas-filled spring in a groove of complementary design and is fixed between the flange halves securing the gas-filled spring, wherein, when joining together of said flange halves, a clamping force is applied around the gas-filled spring by a fixing element supplementing the locking ring, said locking ring and said fixing element are at least two separate components, said fixing element designed to apply a contact force against said locking ring when said upper flange half and said lower flange designed to be secured together.

Claims 11-13 (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein a section inclined in relation to the central axis of the flanged connection on the inside of at least one of ~~the~~ said flange halves is brought into engagement with a correspondingly inclined section on the outside of ~~the~~ said fixing element, ~~the~~ said fixing element being applied around the gas-filled spring with the clamping force and where appropriate being applied against ~~the~~ said locking ring with a contact force.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 14, wherein a groove running along the outside of ~~the~~ said fixing element is brought into engagement with a projecting part arranged on one of ~~the~~ said flange halves having the inclined section.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the clamping force is generated when ~~the~~ said flanged connection is fitted to the machine tool and that the clamping

force is of a predefined magnitude.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the magnitude of the clamping force is adjusted by adjusting the tightening torque of ~~the~~ fasteners used for fitting the flanged connection to the machine tool.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said clamping force serves to prevent rotation of the gas-filled spring.

19. (New) A flanged connection designed to connect a spring arrangement having a circular outer body to a machine tool, said flanged connection comprising an upper flange half, a lower flange half, a fixing element, and a locking ring, said upper flange half and said lower flange half each include a through-opening designed to receive at least a portion of the body of the gas-filled spring, said upper flange half and said lower flange half designed to be secured together, at least one of said flange halves including an inclined section in an inside face that faces the body of the gas-filled spring, said inclined section inclined in relation to a central axis of said flanged connection, said locking ring designed to be at least partially inserted into a groove on an outer surface of the body of the gas-filled spring, said fixing element designed to apply a clamping force on said locking ring that is positioned in the groove on the outer surface of the body of the gas-filled spring when said upper flange half and said lower flange half are secured together, said clamping force designed to at least partially secure the gas-filled spring to said flanged connection and to inhibit movement of said gas-filled spring in said flanged connection, said locking ring having a

generally circular cross-sectional shape, said locking ring and said fixing element are at least two separate components.

20. (New) The flange connection as defined in claim 19, wherein said through-opening in at least one of said flange halves is circular.

21. (New) The flanged connection as defined in claim 19, wherein said fixing element includes a recess, said recess designed to receive at least a portion of said locking ring.

22. (New) The flanged connection as defined in claim 20, wherein said fixing element includes a recess, said recess designed to receive at least a portion of said locking ring.

23. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 19, wherein said flange halves are connected by at least one fastener.

24. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 22, wherein said flange halves are connected by at least one fastener.

25. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 19, wherein said fixing element only engages said upper flange half when said upper flange half and said lower flange half are secured together.

26. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 24, wherein said fixing element only engages said upper flange half when said upper flange half and said lower flange are secured together.

27. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 19, wherein said flanged connection includes only one fixing element and only one locking ring.

28. (New) The flanged connection as defined in 26, wherein said flanged connection includes only one fixing element and only one locking ring.